



February 7, 2017

SMC Colleagues:

I write with an exciting update regarding Santa Monica College's accreditation. Yesterday, I received a letter ([Action Letter](#)) citing the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) action relating to the accreditation team visit in October 2016. The communication was positive and heartening.

The letter informed me that, at their January 11-13, 2017 meeting, the ACCJC took institutional action to assign the following accredited status to SMC: "[Reaffirmed Accreditation for 18 Months on the Basis of a Comprehensive Evaluation](#)." This means that SMC has been determined to be "in substantial compliance" with the standards of the Commission.

The report listed **eight commendations** for Santa Monica College. The recommendations cited praise for the use of online education plans; creative efforts in student transportation; an outstanding job of increasing safety on campus; and more. The affirmation of the student-centered culture and programs at SMC was evident to the visiting team and was a reflection of the collaborative work of college faculty, classified staff, and administrators, and the support of Board of Trustees members.

The ACCJC action detailed **four recommendations** to "**meet the standards**" – a category including institutional policies, practices, and outcomes which represent deficiencies that need to be resolved in order to bring the College into compliance with ACCJC standards.

We have already begun the process of addressing the recommendations to meet the standards, and this work will be accomplished in part through our strategic planning process and other activities. I have full confidence that we are going to address all of the recommendations in a prompt and timely manner.

What happens next? The College will respond to the ACCJC findings via a follow-up report due in 18 months from the date of receipt of the Commission action. We are already working toward addressing the issues of non-compliance detailed. After the Commission receives our report, we will be scheduled for a follow-up visit.

I want to again thank and acknowledge those who took the lead in the college accreditation process: Georgia Lorenz (Accreditation Liaison Officer); Erica LeBlanc and Eve Adler

(Accreditation Steering Committee Co-chairs); Laurie McQuay Peninger and Eleni Hioureas (Co-editors of the Self-Evaluation Report); Rebecca Weiland (Accreditation Coordinator); and the many who chaired/co-chaired and served on sub-committees, and those who worked so hard to ensure that the team's visit in October went smoothly.

Congratulations to everyone! I will provide updates on progress made to address the recommendations.

Thank you for all your efforts to keep Santa Monica College an innovative and resourceful student-centered learning environment.

Kathryn E. Jeffery, Ph.D.

Superintendent/President